

"In short, attract new businesses that manufacture or provide services that are consumed outside our community connected to bluegrass music and attract people to Owensboro, the epicenter of bluegrass music."

Joslin said Owensboro began celebrating its bluegrass heritage during the early 1980s, when a concert series was formed pairing bluegrass artists with the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra.

"I think it demonstrated that bluegrass music could be a differentiator for this community, creating something unique, creating something that no other community has," he said.

Joslin said the opening of the Bluegrass Hall of Fame and Museum at 311 West 2nd St. in Owensboro in 2018 signaled to the world that the organization means business and is part of an economic strategy that begins with cultural tourism, and can grow as more and more people and industry related to the music industry comes to the city.

"I have said before that I believe that most communities like ours, they want to be known for something," Joslin said. "Something that matters, something that is authentic and compelling, something that has a positive, tangible impact on their community. I can tell you that if the news of that something extends beyond the city limits and the county line, well there is opportunity there, and opportunity attracts people, it attracts investment."

"Friends, I can tell you that this is our time, this is our opportunity, and we are claiming it today as the Bluegrass Music Capital of the World."

Mike Simpson, chairman of the International Bluegrass Music Association, provided a brief history of the bluegrass musical genre.

"The odyssey of this original American art form started right down the road here in Ohio County, and much of its history can be traced right here to Owensboro, Kentucky," Simpson said.

Simpson cited early bluegrass musicians Arnold Schultz, Pendleton Vandiver and his grandfather, Cleveland Baize, as forging a music combining Irish, Scottish and blues music.

"Pendleton Vandiver had a nephew by the name of William Smith Monroe that listened to that music, and he and his brothers, Charlie and Birch, they left Ohio County and they took it to the world," Simpson said. "In 1936 they signed a record deal with RCA Victor, and soon the bluegrass music was being spread across radio airwaves across this country."

Simpson said in 1945, bluegrass came to the Grand Ole Opry at Nashville's famed Ryman Auditorium when Chubby Wise, Howard Watts, Lester Flat and Earl Scruggs stepped onto the stage.

"That was bluegrass' sonic boom," Simpson said.

Today, bluegrass is a celebrated part of Owensboro's culture. With the only dedicated Bluegrass Hall of Fame and Museum, the annual ROMP Festival attracting 25,000 annually to enjoy bluegrass and roots music, as well as bluegrass-themed media being created in Owensboro, it has become ingrained in the city's culture.

Simpson said Owensboro being officially known and celebrated as the "Bluegrass Capital of the World" was "a long time coming."

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 453, David L.

Cohen, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Canada.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 454, Mark Gitenstein, of Washington, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 521, Jonathan Eric Kaplan, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Singapore.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 617, Jamie L. Harpootlian, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 621, Scott Miller, of Colorado, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 623, Michael M. Adler, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Belgium.

REMEMBERING ANDREW FRANKLIN ALEXANDER

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator BLACKBURN, I ask unanimous consent that the following remarks be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to further honor the life of Andrew Franklin Alexander, the late son of former Tennessee U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HONORING ANDREW FRANKLIN ALEXANDER

Andrew Franklin Alexander, age 52, passed away December 31, 2021 after a short illness. Drew was born in Washington, D.C., on September 21, 1969. He moved with his family to Nashville, TN when he was one year old. He attended Ensforth School, became a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, and graduated from University School of Nashville. He then attended Kenyon College in Ohio where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music. In 1994 he went to work for Curb Records in Nashville as a receptionist. Quickly he rose to lead the company's publishing division. As Vice President of Pub-

lishing, he oversaw the division's forty-five employees and songwriters. A classically trained guitarist, Drew also directed creative and administrative aspects of the company where he set budgets, signed songwriters, negotiated contracts, placed songs, and acquired catalogs.

During his tenure Curb Music Publishing earned eighty-seven ASCAP, BMI and SESAC performance awards, and set records for the fastest rising country single and the longest charting country single in Billboard Country chart history. In 2017, after 23 years at Curb, Drew stepped down from his role as Director of Publishing but continued working with the Mike Curb Foundation. Drew also founded his own company, Blair Branch Music. He became an active community volunteer working with numerous Nashville agencies including Second Harvest Food Bank, Nashville Rescue Mission, and Room at the Inn. Drew's motto was "give more than you take". When he wasn't on the phone raising money for the needy he often could be found serving lunch at homeless shelters.

Drew served on the boards of The Recording Academy, Belmont School of Music, Family and Children's Service, the Community Resource Center, Leadership Music as Treasurer, and the Tennessee Residence Foundation as Secretary. He was a member of the Country Music Association, the Gospel Music Association, Academy of Country Music, and the Downtown Nashville Rotary Club.

Drew helped many artists and songwriters get their start in Nashville and had many friends in the music industry. Over the years he hosted small groups of songwriters and artists, including Lee Brice, Bill Anderson, Kyle Jacobs, Billy Montana, Kelsea Ballerini and many others, at writing retreats at his family's home at Blackberry Farm in East Tennessee, at Evins Mill in Middle Tennessee, and at Bending Lake in Canada. From these dozens of sessions came more than 1,000 songs including many hits. Drew was active with the National Songwriters Association defending songwriters' legal rights.

Drew loved his daughters, his friends and watching sports with them all, especially the Tennessee Titans and University of Tennessee basketball and football—and he loved to fish, traveling around the world in pursuit of new adventures. Drew is survived by two daughters, Lauren Blair Alexander and Helen Victoria Alexander of Nashville; his parents, Honey and Lamar Alexander of Walland, TN; two sisters, Leslee Alexander of Maryville, TN and Kathryn Alexander of Briarcliff Manor, NY; his brother, Will Alexander of Nashville; and, seven nieces and nephews. The Alexander family wishes to express our thanks to Drew's friends Bruce Phillips and Hal Hardin for their many kindnesses to him.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOHN VICTOR AMROL, JR.

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor to pay tribute to John Victor Amrol, Jr., a long-time New Hampshire resident, State employee, and labor advocate who passed away recently at the age of 85. Born in our State capital of Concord, John was in many ways a quintessential Granite Stater. He had a warm personality, an exceptional work ethic, and a passion